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Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 58th, 59th and 67th meetings, on 7, 8 and 25 May 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/55/SR.58, 59 and 67).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (A/55/764);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/55/794);

(c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/55/874 and Add.7).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.66

4. At its 67th meeting, on 25 May, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western

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Sahara" (A/C.5/55/L.66), submitted by the Vice-Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, which had been coordinated by the representative of Croatia and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.66 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1349 (2001) of 27 April 2001,

Recalling its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 54/268 of 15 June 2000,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2001, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 89.0 million United States dollars, representing some 20 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes that some 10 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

[1] A/55/764 and A/55/794.

[2] A/55/874 and Add.7.

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

3. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

12. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 50,481,396 dollars gross (46,716,010 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, inclusive of the amount of 1,477,457 dollars gross (1,296,614 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 154,339 dollars gross (138,596 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base, to be apportioned among Member States at a monthly rate of 4,206,785 dollars gross (3,893,001 dollars net) in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235 of 23 December 2000, as adjusted by resolution 55/236 of 23 December 2000, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 2001 and 2002, as set out in its resolution 55/5 B of 23 December 2000, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 30 June 2001;

13. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 A (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among

[3] A/55/874/Add.7.

Member States, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 3,765,386 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;

14. *Decides further* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 2,913,400 dollars gross (2,312,800 dollars net) in respect of the period ending 30 June 2000, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by subsequent relevant resolutions and decisions, for the ad hoc apportionment of peacekeeping appropriations, the latest of which were resolution 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and decisions 54/456 to 54/458 of 23 December 1999 for the period 1998-2000 and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2000, as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 and 54/237 A of 23 December 1999;

15. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 2,913,400 dollars gross (2,312,800 dollars net) in respect of the period ending 30 June 2000 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 14 above;

16. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

18. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".